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LEB SHOCK: 2d HOSTAGE DIED IN '84

WASHINGTON — Last June, when the 39 American hostages from TWA Flight 847 were set free in Beirut, President Reagan said he would not forget the seven other Americans who had been kidnaped in Lebanon.

But even as he made that assurance, the CIA had reliable intelligence that two of the seven Americans were already dead.

We reported yesterday the evidence that CIA agent William Buckley, 57, died earlier this year of torture-induced heart failure.

Now we have learned that 60-year-old Peter Kilburn, librarian at the American University of Beirut when he was kidnaped last December, also died of a heart attack in captivity.

Unlike Buckley's death, however, Kilburn's was not caused by torture. He wasn't a prisoner long enough to be abused to death by his Shiite Moslem abductors.

Here's the chronology of terror as we've been able to piece it together from intelligence sources:

March 16, 1984: Buckley, the CIA station chief

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in Beirut, was kidnaped near his apartment in the Lebanese capital and transported to the town of Baalbek in the eastern Bekaa Valley.

That's Syrian-controlled territory — with a strong Iranian presence.

Buckley's captors were Hezbollah (Party of God) extremists closely linked to the Islamic Jihad. Both get directions from Iran.

Dec. 3, 1984: Kilburn was kidnaped in Beirut and driven to Baalbek. He had a history of heart disease and hypertension, and a stroke had left him partially paralyzed.

According to our sources, Kilburn died shortly after being seized, possibly the same day.

Jan. 22, 1985: Buckley was videotaped giving a message from his kidnapers. He mentioned two other American hostages — but not Kilburn.

March 22: Secretary of State George Shultz privately called the family of one hostage and assured them "we are using quiet diplomacy" to secure the hostages' release.

At the same time he sent a secret message to Tehran warning that Iran would "suffer the consequences" if any American hostages were harmed.

April: Buckley suffered a heart attack brought on by torture and died in a Tehran hospital.

May: The Islamic Jihad released a picture taken earlier of five of the hostages. It included Buckley, but not Kilburn.

September: The Rev. Benjamin Weir, one of the "Lebanon Seven," was released. He, too, had been held in the Bekaa Valley, and reported seeing and talking with three other hostages — but not Buckley or Kilburn.

October: The Islamic Jihad announced it had executed Buckley in retaliation for the recent Israeli raid on Palestine Liberation Organization headquarters in Tunisia. Actually, he had been dead for months.

November: A letter appeared, signed by four American hostages, asking for help in their release. Buckley's and Kilburn's names were not on the letter.

December: The State Dept. continues to say it "assumes" Buckley and Kilburn are alive, along with the four others. But the department knows better.



FLASHBACK: Our Jack Anderson exclusive yesterday on death of American hostage.